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Symphonic Winds

Stephen K. Steele Conductor
Illinois State University

Michael Forbes Soloist

Griffin James Soloists

Eric Jordan Soloists

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School of Music
Illinois State University

SYMPHONIC WINDS

Stephen K. Steele, *Conductor*

Dr. Michael Forbes, Griffin James, Eric Jordan, *Soloists*

The one hundred and fifth program of the 2004-2005 season

Center for Performing Arts
Sunday, March 6, 2005
3:00 p.m.

Program

Celebration (1993)

Philip Sparke
(born 1951)

Concerto for Euphonium and Wind Ensemble (2000)

Calmly, with much expression
Primitive, driving

Patrick Schulz
(born 1974)

Griffin James, euphonium

Napoli(1932)

Herman Bellstedt
(1858-1926)

Eric Jordan, tuba

~Intermission~

Be Thou My Vision (2000)

David Gillingham
(born 1947)

Tapestries (2004)

Of Kings and Queens
I Love My Love
Of Religion and War
Of Death and Plague
Aye, The Food and Drink!

Michael Forbes
(born 1973)

Michael Forbes, tuba

Morning Star (1999)

David Maslanka
(born 1943)

Program Notes

Celebration was commissioned by the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra, and was premiered by them on June 11, 1992. Philip Sparke says of this work, ["it celebrates two things, first the incredible virtuosity of the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra and secondly, and more generally, optimism of the human spirit; and perhaps, more specifically, what is to me the most important aspect of any band music -- the glorious results that can be achieved when musicians play together towards a common goal, a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts."] Opening with a majestic brass fanfare, *Celebration* makes a proclamation of optimism, with woodwind punctuations added to the brass theme. A second, calmer theme conveys peace and security, and demonstrates the range of technique and dynamics of the ensemble. Suddenly, a trumpet flourish changes the mood, leading to the *presto* theme, which is derived from the opening fanfare, and features rapidly moving passages in the woodwinds. Themes are energetically exchanged between woodwinds and brass throughout. Near the end, the brass reintroduce the chordal fanfare against the main woodwind theme. Gaining momentum, the work concludes with a series of strident chords.

Commissioned by and written for Demondrae Thurman, *Concerto for Euphonium and Wind Ensemble* was created to help fulfill the need for new works for an instrument that is decidedly lacking in original solo literature. The two movements differ drastically in regards to pitch material, tempo, texture, orchestration, dynamics, and overall effect. "Calmly, with much expression" draws on the sounds of the Javanese gamelan and uses a consistent modal language—favoring the Dorian, Phrygian, and Aeolian modes. A lyrical and aria-like quality is preserved throughout. "Primitive, driving," is a relentlessly energetic movement in rondo form. All pitch material, both harmonic and linear, was derived from an interval set containing minor seconds, minor thirds, and perfect fourths. Mixed meter and rapid shifts of accent help create a rather machine-like movement filled with surprises and sudden twists of character.

Griffin James is currently pursuing a Master's degree in euphonium performance at Illinois State University as a student of Mike Forbes. A native of Whitewater, Wisconsin, he completed his bachelor's of music education degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he studied euphonium with John Stevens. Mr. James has placed as a semi-finalist at the 2004 Leonard Falcone International Tuba Euphonium

Competition, and as a finalist in the 2005 Midwest Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference euphonium excerpt contest. During his summers, Mr. James works as a music teacher and staff director at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, Michigan.

Herman Bellstedt was born in Bremen, Germany. His family immigrated to Cincinnati in 1867. His first solo cornet performance in 1873 brought him the title "Boy Wonder," and he later joined Sousa's Band in 1904, remaining there until 1906. In 1913 he began a long tenure as professor of wind instruments at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. He served as a mentor for many musicians of succeeding generations, including the great cornetist Frank Simon. *Napoli* is perhaps the best known of Bellstedt's works for solo cornet (or, in today's case, solo tuba). The piece is a brilliant set of virtuosic variations on the popular 1920's Italian street song "Funiculi Funicula". Frank Simon bought the manuscript in 1932 from Irwin Bellstedt, the composer's son, and subsequently published this arrangement.

Eric Jordan was born in Joliet, Illinois. He attended Joliet Central High School, where he studied under Mr. Ted Lega and Mr. Donald Johnson, and won many awards and scholarships, including the John Philip Sousa and Bruce Houseknecht awards. Mr. Jordan is currently a senior tuba performance major at Illinois State University, as a student of Mike Forbes. He recently advanced to the finals of the 2005 Midwestern Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference Quartet Competition, held at Illinois State University.

David Gillingham writes of *Be Thou My Vision*: ["It was an honor and privilege to compose this work for Ray and Molly Cramer in honor of their parents. The work is heartfelt, expressive and hopefully inspiring. The hymn tune, *Slane*, is one of my favorites and inspired me to compose a countermelody which is likened to an old Irish ballad. Since *Slane* is, in fact, an old Irish ballad, the two tunes share this unique camaraderie. The work opens with a medieval-like flavor of reverence, leading to the first presentation of *Slane* (*Be Thou My Vision*) in D minor stated in chant-like somberness by the euphonium. Following, the newly composed Irish ballad is sung by the flute which leads to a dramatic statement of *Be Thou My Vision* by the full ensemble in A-major. The work is interrupted by a prayerful interlude. Following is the marriage of the two Irish tunes in Db-major which grows to a glorious climax and then subsides. A heavenly benediction closes the work."]

Michael Forbes writes of *Tapestries*: *Tapestries* is a musical depiction of life during the Medieval and Renaissance eras. The opening movement, "Of Kings & Queens" begins with a harmonic overtone series fanfare in the trumpets and trombones, and quickly launches into an "Earle of Oxford's Marche" of sorts. The stern and stubborn duple theme represents a king's tyrannical principles, while the light triple meter melody represents the daintier and gentler queen. The second movement, scored for woodwinds and percussion alone, is meant to be a Troubadour love song: "I Love My Love." Similar to many English folksongs, this work is quite modal, and depicts a syllabic rendering of the title in the melody played by the tuba. "Of Religion & War," for percussion and tuba, illustrates the sacred yet intensely violent life led by the people of the medieval era. With so many squabbles about life, land, and wealth based primarily on religious beliefs, it was too great a temptation to contrast the solemn sounds of a *cantus firmus* chant with the agile swordsmanship of the era's greatest crusaders and religious warriors. Though this tapestry is meant to portray a harsher time in our world's historic past, it is particularly interesting how contemporary this theme is today in our world's global conflicts. This launches directly into the fourth tapestry (written for the brass alone) where, after a great deal of Gesualdoesque dissonance, a solemn three voice motet explores the haunting sadness of a devastating time when loss of human life was all too common. The final tapestry, "Aye, the Food & Drink," lightens up the preceding darkness immensely, and depicts the celebration of life and harvest in a madrigal style. The final movement, like the first, is scored for tutti band. *Tapestries* was commissioned by and written for Andy Carlson of the U.S. Navy Band, and premiered on February 19, 2005, at the Midwest Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference at Illinois State University.

Michael Forbes, the Assistant Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at Illinois State University, began his career as a tubist with the U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own" in Washington, D.C. A founding member of the Sotto Voce Quartet and the conductor of the Brass Band of Central Illinois, Mike maintains an active career as a chamber musician, conductor, and soloist. He regularly gives recital tours throughout the United States, and has recently been invited to perform with the Taiwan Air Force band at the National Concert Hall in Taipei. A prolific composer and arranger, especially for brass, Mike's works have been selected for numerous international competitions and recordings, and are published by Editions BIM, Music Express, Tuba Euphonium-Press, and TubaQuartet.com. Mike attended the University of Maryland, the

University of Wisconsin–Madison, the Pennsylvania State University, and spent his junior year abroad at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England. Mike is a clinician for The Music Group, Inc., and is a Besson Performing Artist.

About the composition of *Morning Star*, David Maslanka writes: ["It was a surprise to me. In planning the piece, I came up with a great many ideas — enough for three or four pieces. When it came time to compose, I suddenly discarded all of that material and took up a little tune that came to mind. The result is a happy piece, a concept which does not usually attach itself to my music. The piece has a Rondo shape with the 'A' portions being sets of variations on the main theme. There are 32 variations in all. The orchestration, while offering enough to the brass and percussion, strongly emphasizes wind color and open sounds. *Morning Star* is about beginnings: the dawning of a new day, the opening of a new hall, the beginning of adult life for the young people who premiered the piece, and for those who are playing it now."] *Morning Star* was commissioned by the Grand Ledge High School Wind Symphony, Grand Ledge, Michigan, for the opening of their new concert hall, and was premiered by them on May 11, 1997.

Symphonic Winds Personnel

Flute

Erin Laco, *Bloomington*
Rachel Wiersbe, *Hudson*
Carmen Hawkins, *Collinsville*

Oboe

Anna Keehan, *Hoffman Estates*
Ashley Thomas, *Joliet*

English Horn

Jordan Ready, *Cary*

E-Flat Clarinet

Pat Steadman, *Normal*

Clarinet

Andrea Lawhun, *Roselle*
Amy Szynal, *Burr Ridge*
Laura Schmink, *Pontiac*
Ian Leggin, *Kenosha, WI*
Mark Iwinski, *Tinley Park*
Lauren Themanson, *Aurora*
Melissa Bianchetta, *Diamond*
Christin Keyes, *Charleston*

Bass Clarinet

Jenny Bendy, *New Lenox*
Jessica Twohill, *Lemont*

Bassoon

Megan Aberle, *Fairbury*
Guadalupé Esquivel, *Chicago Hts.*
Brian Cooley, *Peoria*

Alto Saxophone

Eric Huber, *Rockford*
Ryan Grill, *Tinley Park*

Tenor Saxophone

Kyle Brubaker, *Pekin*

Baritone Saxophone

Al Rendak, *Burbank*

Horn

Kayla Jahnke, *Normal*
Danielle Fisher, *Shirley*
Jennifer Szynal, *Burr Ridge*
Krista Reese, *Bloomington*
Kelly Simon, *Crystal Lake*
Meryl Brown, *Syracuse, NY*

Trumpet

Tim Dillow, *Kewanee*
Cary Ruklic, *Frankfort*
Kevin Price, *Jackson, TN*
Myles Singleton, *Joliet*
Justin Stanford, *Sauk Village*

Trombone

Nick Benson, *Ottawa*
Jessica Heitz, *Charles City, IA*

Bass Trombone

Tom Madia, *Lemont*

Euphonium

Cristina Carbia, *Trujillo Alto, PR*
Meredith Melvin, *Monmouth*

Tuba

Clint Meyer, *North Aurora*
Erick Somodi, *Lansing*

Percussion

Nathan Bojko, *Manteno*
Doug Ford, *Morton*
Zachary Fosnaugh, *Manteno*
Corey Krengiel, *Lemont*
Lawrence Rogers, *Homer Glen*

String Bass

Karl Kieser, *Pekin*

Piano

Kevin Reeks, *Tinley Park*

Offstage Trumpets (Celebration)

Adam Bergeron, *Barre, VT*
Ted Clark, *Toronto, ON*
Ryan Elliott, *Saginaw, MI*

Wind and Percussion Faculty

Flute – Kimberly Risinger
Oboe – Judith Dicker
Clarinet – David Gresham
Bassoon – Michael Dicker
Saxophone – James Boitos

Horn – Joe Neisler
Trumpet – Amy Gilreath
Trombone – Stephen Parsons
Tuba/Euphonium—Michael Forbes
Percussion – David Collier

Band Staff

Director of Bands – Stephen K. Steele
Assistant Director of Bands – Matthew Luttrell
Secretary for Bands – Connie Bryant
Graduate Teaching Assistants – Ian Leggin, Sean Powell
Librarians – Heather Husley, Amy Zordan
Graduate Assistant – Jason Binde
Undergraduate Assistant – Andrea Lawhun

Upcoming Band Activities

(All events are in the Center for Performing Arts unless otherwise noted)

Thursday, March 10—Wind Symphony World Premieres Concert—8:00 pm

Tuesday, March 15 through Sunday, March 20—Wind Symphony Tour
Bowling Green, OH; Ithaca, NY; Hartford, CT; Flemington, NJ

Sunday, March 20—Wind Symphony Concert—5:00 pm
Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, New York City, NY

Saturday, April 2—Invitational Jazz Festival—All Day
Center for Performing Arts and Kemp Recital Hall

Saturday, April 9—Junior High Concert Band Festival—All Day

Monday, April 18—Chamber Winds—8:00 pm
Kemp Recital Hall

Sunday, April 24—Symphonic Winds—3:00 pm

Wednesday, April 27—Symphonic Band and University Band—8:00 pm

Saturday, April 30—High School Concert Band Festival—All Day

Sunday, May 1—Wind Symphony—3:00 pm